

1880

Annual Reports of the Board of Selectmen and Superintending School Committee of the Town of Farmington, for the Year Ending February 20th, 1880

Farmington (Me.).

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ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
AND
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL
COMMITTEE
OF THE
Town of Farmington.
For the Year Ending February 20th, 1880.



PRINTED AT CHRONICLE BOOK & JOB PRESS.
1880.

Selectmen's Annual Report.

To the Citizens of Farmington:

Your Selectmen would respectfully submit the following report in relation to the financial condition of the Town, together with the amount of receipts and expenditures from February 20th, 1879, to February 20th, 1880.

After taking an inventory of the real and personal estate, we found the valuation of the town to be Fifteen Hundred and Fifty-five Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty Dollars, (\$1,555,-840 00), and the number of Polls to be Eight Hundred and Fifty seven (857).

Upon the Polls and Estates we have assessed the following named sums, to wit:

For State Tax,	\$5802 47
County Tax,	1810 91
Support of Schools,	2610 00
Support of Poor,	1800 00
Repairs on roads and bridges,	4500 00
The payment of Orders on Interest,	1280 00
To pay interest on " " " "	1200 00
Repairing large bridges,	1000 00
Rebuilding Center Bridge,	400 00
Overlays,	850 52
	<hr/>
	\$21,253 90

On the 16th day of August, A. D., 1879, we committed lists of said assessments unto R. Hanley Smith, Esq., collector of said town.

We subsequently committed a supplemental assessment to said collector, amounting to the sum of Eighty-three Dollars and Ten Cents (\$83 10), making the total amount committed to the collector, Twenty-one Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty-seven Dollars (\$21,337 00), and the number of polls, Twenty-four, making the total number of Polls Eight Hundred and Eighty-one (881).

Treasurer's Statement

For the Year commencing Feb. 20, 1879, and ending
Feb. 20, 1880.

Dr.

To paid for Town Orders,	\$17,625 01
" School Orders,	4,119 89
" Coupons,	484 50
Interest on Town Orders,	329 96
For Bills of Sale,	45 00
State Pension to T. R. Bragg,	24 00
To balance due on note of W. F. Gordon,	205 00
Non-resident tax not paid,	30 51
Balance in Treasury,	537 90
	<hr/> \$23,401 77

Cr.

By Cash in Treasury Feb. 20th, 1879,	\$ 25 89
By Rec'd for Town Bonds sold at 4 per cent.,	6,000 00
" Town Order sold,	1,500 00
Of A. T. Tuck, collector for 1876,	30 00
" Daniel Beale, " " 1877,	1,005 69
" R. Hanley Smith, " " 1878,	7,143 30
" " " " 1879,	6,218 61
" Liquor Agent,	368 90
For old bridge timber sold,	55 72
" Smellidge Stand sold,	250 00
Non-resident tax,	245 10
For goods of N. B. Fairbanks sold,	30 00
" taxes collected in School Dist. No. 4, to pay orders paid by town Free High School in 1877,	149 00
Of N. G. Whittier, to pay expense of pauper,	10 00
For cost on Non resident taxes advertised,	13 75
Of Town of Starks,	38 00
" " " Chesterville,	29 10
" " " Strong,	43 79
" " " Phillips,	11 45
" " " New Sharon,	64 64
" A. Currier interest on School Fund,	95 75
For tax Deeds,	73 08
	<hr/> \$23,401 77

P. P. TUFTS, *Treasurer of Farmington.*

Expenditures.

PAID BY ORDERS.

School Districts,	\$4119 87
P. P. Tufts for services as Town Treasurer for 1878,	50 00
C. B. Russell for " " Selectman " "	156 00
F. C. Perkins " " " " " "	153 00
W. B. Gilman " " " " " "	140 00
I. Warren Merrill " " Town Clerk " "	10 00
J. R. Voter for " " S.S. Committee " "	62 57
D. H. Knowlton " " " " " "	35 00
Hiram Titcomb " " " " " "	45 75
D. H. Knowlton for rent of Selectmen's office,	40 00
Joseph S. Craig for rent of Town Hall,	40 00
R. B. Jennings for care " " " "	5 00
Insane Hospital for support of Phebe Hiscock, Martha Bailey, and Olive Ann Richardson,	371 49
For support of Jesse Hiscock and family,	187 40
" " James Foot,	29 55
" " Mrs. Daggett and daughter,	80 00
" " Nutting children,	59 83
" " Robert Hannaford,	102 52
" " Reuben Hosmer,	86 75
" " Jasper Wendell and family,	64 24
" " A. M. Welch's children,	59 50
" " Wm. P. Huff,	15 50
" " B. R. Avery, and charge to Fairfield,	18 50
" " Daniel Perkins' family for rent,	25 00
" " Wm. Stewart,	61 92
" " Susan A. Andrews, and charged to the city of Portland,	8 79
" " Mrs. George Hamlin and children,	106 20
" " Mrs. Lydia B. Fredericks, and paid by Starks,	8 50
" " Enoch Avery,	7 95
" " David Hamlen,	9 50
" " Fred S. Smith,	33 00
" " Daniel Witham and Jerusha Howes,	134 00
" " Tramps,	46 25
" " French child,	2 50
" " Frank Rodrick,	23 25
" " Isaiah Tibbetts,	45 30
" " H. M. Bragg,	14 46
" " John A. Adams, paid by Strong,	43 79
" " N. B. Fairbanks,	246 42

For support of Augustine Day and family, charged to Kingfield,	22 12
Incidentals for paupers,	86 60
Industry for supplies for H. T. Allen,	36 98
Support of A. D. Taylor,	72 00
Supplies furnished Julia E. Packard,	45 72
“ “ child of Charles Ayer, and charged Orrington,	5 00
“ “ L.M.Lowell and paid by Chesterville,	10 40
P. P. Tufts cash paid for witnesses in case of Farmington vs. Industry,	104 13
Abatements on sundry taxes,	83 78
Selden Knowlton for removing bridge timber,	1 00
W. W. Whitney for board Phebe J. Orr, charged to Christopher Orr,	8 00
J. Frank Hiscock for damage to horse on highway	40 00
L. S. Wade for damage on highway,	3 00
C. P. Gilman “ “ “	100 00
S. A. Nelke “ “ “	150 00
I. D. Whitten “ crossing land,	4 00
Augustus Hiscock for repairs of culvert,	15 00
S. Walton for damage crossing land,	10 00
O. L. Walker “ “ “	6 00
H. Corbett “ “ “	5 75
W. R. Cothren for filling road as per contract,	10 00
J. C. Stewart for filling land taken by the town,	80 00
C. W. Stoddard for contract on High street near J. C. Stewart,	95 00
S. C. Paine for damage on coach,	1 50
J. M. Bumpus “ “ highway,	5 25
A. H. Abbott for dirt used by the town in 1879,	15 00
For large bridges,	933 34
For wood and fitting for Selectmen's office,	5 00
P. P. Tufts for incidental expenses,	10 00
S. Collins for fitting curb stone,	8 80
Samuel Belcher for legal services and cash paid out by him from 1872 to Feb. 13, 1880,	353 96
Joseph S. Wendell for lighting center bridge,	14 50
H. A. Ford for snowing Falls bridge,	2 50
C. H. Barden for lighting Falls bridge,	9 00
Daniel Beale for cash to pay for land of S. Knowlton,	19 35
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ H. Graham,	31 35
R. Hanley Smith for road orders taken up,	3787 13
Daniel Beale for road orders taken up,	213 36
P. P. Tufts for interest on outstanding orders,	785 72

P. P. Tufts paid on principal on outstanding orders,	995 00
Daniel Beale for cash order taken up Feb. 13, 1880,	1500 00
Reuben Weld in part on contract new Center bridge,	\$554 15
T. Lambert for 14,508lbs Iron,	406 30
N. Totman & Sons, pine and spruce lumber,	311 02
J. W. Deering for Southern Pine,	364 53
Selectmen as agents for building Center bridge, 18 00—	1,654 00
T. R. Bragg for State Pension,	24 00

Expenses for Support of Poor.

Your Overseers of the Poor contracted with Sylvanus Knowlton for the support of Daniel Witham and Jerusha Howes from April 1, 1879, to April 1, 1880,	\$150 00
Paid Insane Hospital for support of Martha Bailey, Phebe Hiscock, and Olive Ann Richardson,	371 49
Contracted with Ivory Welch for support of A. M. Welch children,	30 00
“ “ Susan Daggett “ “ “ Mrs. Daggett and daughter,	80 00
“ “ James McClain “ “ “ Geo. Hamlin's wife and children,	100 00
Miscellaneous pauper bills,	1295 89
Estimated cost of pauper bills not contracted for from Feb. 20, 1880, to April 1, 1880,	100 00
	<u>\$2127 38</u>

Farmington Liquor Agency.

February 20, 1879.	Dr.	Cr.
To Liquors on hand,	\$225 00	By amount received on
“ from State		sales of Liquors from
Agent from Feb. 20,		Feb. 20, 1879, to Feb.
1879, to Feb. 20,		20, 1880,
1880,	1363 62	\$1890 42
Expense and freight		Sales of Barrels and
on Liquors,	27 40	and Casks,
Salary for one year,	150 00	Liquors on hand Feb.
Profits for one year,	368 90	20, 1880,
		225 00
		<hr/>
	\$2134 92	\$2134 92

Appropriation and Expenditures.

The Town appropriated, March 3, A. D. 1879,		
For Support of Schools—Town,	\$2610 00	
“ “ “ “ —Mill Tax,	1070 22	
“ “ “ “ —State School Fund,	463 93	
“ “ “ “ —Town “ “	95 75	
		\$4239 90
Expended for cash paid School orders,	4130 87	
Awaiting payment by Treasurer School orders drawn,	110 15	
		4241 02
For the support of the poor,		1800 00
Expended for cash paid Insane Hospital,	371 49	
“ “ “ “ for all other Paupers,	1755 89	
		2127 38
For the payment of orders on interest,		1280 00
Expended for cash paid for orders taken up,	600 00	
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	200 00	
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	195 00	
		995 00
For the payment of center bridge, (new span)	400 00	
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “		
4 per cent. bond,	1000 00	
		1400 00
Expended for building new center bridge,	1654 00	
Minus cash received for old bridge,	50 00	
		1604 00
For to pay interest on orders and bonds,		1200 00
Expended for cash to pay interest on orders,	775 72	
“ “ “ “ “ coupons on bonds,	484 50	
		1260 22
For roads and bridges,		4500 00
Expended for roads and small bridges, D. Beale,	213 36	
Expended for roads and small bridges R. Hanley Smith,	3787 13	
		4000 49
For large bridges,		1000 00
Expended for large bridges,		960 68
For abatement on taxes,		Nothing
Expended for abatement on taxes,		96 99
Expended for town officers for the year ending March 3, 1879,	652 32	
“ for costs on legal suit, Industry vs. Farmington,	104 13	

Expended for Town Hall, Selectmen's office,		
wood &c.,	90 00	
" for cash paid for sundries orders	316 00	\$1162 45

Bonded Debt — When Due.

Bonds due April 1, A. D. 1882,,	\$1750 00	
" " October 1, A. D. 1884.	700 00	
" " April 1, A. D. 1887,	5550 00	Drawing 5 per cent
		\$8000 00
" " April 1, A. D. 1884,	1350 00	
" " " " " 1885,	600 00	Drawing 4 per cent.
" " " " " 1889,	4050 00	\$6000 00

Town Orders — When Due.

Due 1879,	\$ 785 00	
" 1880,	1808 00	
" 1881,	2575 75	
" 1882,	4401 00	
" 1884,	1000 00	\$10,569 75

Resources of the Town.

Amount in the hands of the Collector, for 1876,	20 00
" " " " " " " 1877,	794 30
" " " " " " " 1878,	1777 38
" " " " " " " 1879,	7505 01
" Due from the Town of New Sharon,	25 00
" " " " City " Portland,	8 99
" " " " Town of Chesterville,	2 75
" " " " " " Kingfield,	22 12
" " " " " " Orrington,	5 00
" " " " " " Fairfield,	18 50
" " " " " " for interest on School Fund,	112 00
" " " D. H. & Joel Hobert,	107 00
" in the hands of the Town Treasurer of tax titles,	164 31
" " " " " " " " of Non-Resident Taxes,	30 51
" " " " " " Town Treasurer of Bill of Sale,	45 00
" Due from the State for cash paid for Pensions,	24 00
" " " " " " School Fund,	463 93
" " " " " " Mill Tax,	1070 22
" " " " " " Railroad Tax,	5 00
Amount in the hands of the Town Treasurer, note,	205 00
" " " " " " " cash,	537 90
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	12,943 72

Liabilities.

Interest bearing Town orders. drawing 5 per	
cent. interest,	9269 75
" " " " " 4 per cent. interest,	1300 00
Town orders not on interest, awaiting payment	
by Treasurer,	1271 74
School orders not on interest, awaiting payment	
by Treasurer,	100 15
Amount due the several districts, balance undrawn,	1036 67
" " John Smelledge, balance on house and lot,	113 32
Bonded debt drawing 5 per cent. interest,	8000 00
" " " 4 " "	6000 00
	<hr/>
	27,101 63
Deduct Resources of the Town,	12,943 72
	<hr/>
Present indebtedness of the Town,	14,157 91

Estimates for Town Officers.

C. B. Russell, for services as Selectman,	100 00
F. C. Perkins, " " " "	100 00
Wm. B. Gilman, for " " "	100 00
P. P. Tufts, " " " Town Treasurer,	50 00
I. W. Merrill, " " " " Clerk,	10 00
Superintending School Committee,	100 00

Estimates for the Ensuing Year.

For the support of Schools,	2610 00
" " " " Poor,	2000 00
" Defraying Town charges,	1800 00
" Paying interest on Town's indebtedness,	1200 00
" Pay principal " " "	1000 00
" Roads and small bridges,	5000 00
" Contingent fund, (for large bridges),	500 00
" Covering new part of Center Bridge,	250 00
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	14,360 00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. B. RUSSELL, }
 F. C. PERKINS, } Selectmen
 W. B. GILMAN, } of the
 Town of Farmington

Farmington, Feb. 20, A. D., 1880.

School Committee's Report.

Citizens of Farmington :

Another year's work has closed and your School Committee in submitting this, their annual report, for your consideration regret that more has not been accomplished. Yet, while there may be much to discourage the friends of popular education, there are yet many things to encourage renewed effort. As the field is surveyed, in many a fertile spot we discern that the seed planted has taken deep root and presents no uncertain growth. For this let us be thankful, and in the future let us work more earnestly to improve the common schools in our town so that every child may secure the benefits of a good education. It is thus we can best promote the morals of our town, enhance the value of its farms and homes, increase its population and develop its numerous industries.

WORK OF VISITATION.

Your Committee have visited all the schools in town at least once each term and in most cases twice or more. In these visits it has been our aim to wisely direct the course of instruction, examine the work of the teacher, make all necessary suggestions as to the best division of the teacher's time and the best methods of discipline. In this work the teachers have uniformly followed our instructions, and in some cases have frequently consulted with the Committee at other times. In Nos. 7, 12 and 17 the Committee were called upon to visit the schools for the purpose of investigating the discipline thereof. We found on investigation various parties were at fault and we endeavored to place the blame where it belonged. In only two instances during the year were schools discontinued, though others have been far from *ideal* schools.

SCHOOL AGENTS.

There is a fault which in its sequence explains why some of the schools have not been better. Our Agents in some cases have not been the best men for the place. The man who knows

how to run the best school is the one who should be elected Agent. When our people elect such an one the first step is taken in securing a profitable school. The work of Agents the past year has been well done in most cases. Attention is called to this matter here because of its importance in connection with the schools the coming year. New Agents are soon to be chosen. Look well to it and elect those men who will best provide for the education of your children.

It is very important that the teachers should be morally qualified to instruct. It is the duty of the Committee before examining a candidate to require certificates of a good moral character. Agents will assist in this work if they employ only such teachers as come to them well recommended by reliable persons as the possessors of upright moral character.

It will also assist the Committee in their work if the Agents would always notify them of the time the school is to commence and close. In consequence of the neglect of Agents to do this some of the schools have not been visited for several weeks from the commencement of the term, while some schools have been closed without a second visit.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Once more your attention is called to the extravagance and inequality arising from our present district limits. For years those in town who have known the facts have so regarded it, and yet we have allowed it to continue from year to year. Your attention is invited to the figures given below:

State School Fund.....	\$463 93.
“ Mill Tax.....	1070 22.
Town School Fund.....	95 75.
“ Tax.....	2610 00.

Total school money this year.....\$4239 90.

April 1st, 1879, there were 1027 scholars in town as returned by Agents. An equal apportionment of this money per scholar would give to be expended for each a fraction over \$4.12. We were obliged to apportion at the rate of \$3.65 each the sum of \$3,748.55, the balance remaining being \$491.35 which we gave the smaller districts as follows;

No.	2.	with 22 scholars,	\$22 00	No.	16,	with 24 scholars.	\$24 00
6,	“	9	29 25	17,	“	17	38 25
7,	“	31	31 00	18,	“	10	42 75
8,	“	11	35 10	19,	“	27	27 00
10,	“	24	24 00	20,	“	25	25 00
11,	“	25	25 00	21,	“	10	32 50
12,	“	32	32 00	22,	“	32	32 00
14,	“	22	22 00	30,	“	6	19 50
15,	“	30	30 00				

Those to whom this money was given are about one-third of the scholars, and these it will be seen received an average of \$1.07 each more than the other two-thirds. The districts that did not receive any of this amount are Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 9 and the small union districts. Within five years Nos. 1, 3 and 4 have expended in new school houses nearly \$14,000—several times the value of all the others. The small districts with one or two exceptions so far as repairs have been made have availed themselves of the 10 per cent. allowed by law and saved expense to themselves. In other words quite a portion of the amount given these smaller districts the present and former years to afford "an equal opportunity of enjoying the benefits of common school education," has not been expended for this purpose, but from it, at the expense of the larger districts, they have actually repaired their school houses.

The school in No. 6—Gay District—when visited by the Committee this winter had an average attendance of *one and one-half* pupils. This district received \$29.25 of the amount given to small districts. To educate one child and a half in this district it costs the town about \$5.00 per week. The extravagance is apparent to all. Your Committee recommend that this district be annexed to the Fairbanks' Mills district. The old school house in No. 6 has passed its majority and reached its dotage. It is now neither ornamental nor useful. It is uncomfortable and unhealthy. We doubt if any member of the district would accept the old thing either as a hog-pen or a horse-shed. If the district must be continued let the town save its money by schooling the children in a larger school. Last year several changes were made whereby the members of two small union districts were annexed to larger ones. This year we would recommend that Mr. John Hiscock be annexed to Union district No. 23 at North Chesterville.

In former reports the attention of the town has been called to the advantages of a town system. There are too many districts and their number should be reduced so as to secure longer and better schools. As a town we are not receiving the value of the money expended. Our children are justly entitled to a better education than they are now receiving and will hold us responsible for it. The abolition of the districts and the reorganization of the schools as a town system would be vastly better than the present, but there are many who are opposed to this plan. Evidently the town is not ready for such a change, but the interests of education and economy are certainly in this direction.

TEACHERS AND THEIR WORK.

At a recent meeting of the Franklin County Educational Association the Hon. E. S. Kyes, of Jay, presented the following recommendation which the Association adopted, that "Agents be recommended not to employ male teachers under 18, and female teachers under 17 years of age." This recommendation has been endorsed by quite a portion of the school officers in the county. We are in sympathy with the resolution and submit it to the consideration of the Agents in town.

In mixed schools the teacher has so many classes, and such a variety of work is necessary that in justice to the younger pupils only a few of the higher studies should be admitted. For these reasons we have excluded some of the higher studies from one or two schools. At all events the teacher should not introduce new studies without consulting the Committee. More attention should be devoted to the elementary branches, reading, writing, and language in particular. Much of the pupil's time is lost in the study of mathematics in many schools where there is a lamentable ignorance in other studies. A teacher should always have a definite programme and after he has made it out he should follow it. Mr. Z. V. Carville, who has taught one of the most successful mixed schools in town, has furnished us with a copy of his programme which we are pleased to insert as an assistance to other teachers in town :

"PROGRAMME."

A. M.

9-10....	Devotional Exercises.
9-20....	Reading History.
9-35....	" " Fourth.
9-50....	" " Third.
10-05.. }	" " Second.
	" " First.
10-20....	Arithmetic. 1st.
10-35....	" " 2d.
10-50....	" Recess."
11-05....	Arithmetic. 3d.
11-20....	Algebra.
11-35.. }	Reading and Spelling in "First."
	Spelling. Second.
	" " Third.
12-00.. }	Geometry.
	Composition, "Oral."

P. M.

12-40....	Reading History.
12-50....	" " Fourth.
1-00....	" " Third.
1-10.. }	" " Second.
	" " First.

1-25....	Writing, Philosophy. Geography.	2nd. 1st.
2-00....	Miscellaneous.	{ Oral exercise on Maps. Mental Arithmetic. Rules in " " combined.
2-15....	" Recess."	
2-30....	Physiology. Reading and Spelling " <i>first</i> ." Spelling Second. " " Third. " " Fourth.	
	Grammar and Analysis.	2nd. 1st.

The time opposite each recitation shows the time that it closed.

Writing a daily recitation excepting "Saturday."

SCHOOL HOUSES.

In the Falls District the old school property has been sold and a new and commodious school house has been erected, costing the district a little over \$2,500. We congratulate the district on the completion of the new school house which stands as a monument to their enterprise and intelligence. The dedication of the school house occurred Tuesday, Feb. 10th. The Hon. E. S. Morris, then State Superintendent, was present and delivered the dedicatory address. The dedication was followed by an educational meeting which was largely attended by the people of the vicinity. The occasion proved a very pleasant one and marked a new epoch in the school at the Falls which has long suffered from the use of a room in no respect adapted to profitable school work. In accordance with the vote of the meeting we are pleased to insert the dedicatory portion of Mr. Morris' excellent address and regret that more of it could not be published at this time:

"Impressed with the importance of the common schools, parents and children, teachers and pupils, and the friends of education generally have come together in this new house to show their encouragement to the cause of education and to this school. Permit us now to dedicate this house to the purposes for which it was erected. We dedicate it to the moral training of the young, to the cultivation of those Christian precepts that teach us to do to others as we would they should do to us. We dedicate it to the improvement of the heart, to the growth of the affections, to kind offices and gentle manners, to the attachments and sympathies of early childhood. We dedicate it to the improvement of the mind, to the proper culture and discipline of the intellectual powers, to the attainment of knowledge, and the formation of correct habits and principles. We dedi-

cate it to the harmonious development of the moral, physical and intellectual nature of childhood. We dedicate it to the cultivation of truth, kindness, sincerity and uprightness, to order and neatness, to parental visits and the watchful care of the inhabitants of this district, to their earnest, sincere and united efforts to secure within its walls the blessings of good schools. We dedicate it to social and kindly intercourse, to happy meetings of pupils and teachers, parents and citizens. We dedicate it to all that can enlighten the mind, enoble the nature and make pure the heart of children and youth."

CHANGE OF TEXT BOOKS.

During the past six years no text books have been changed in town except in the Village District where the Franklin readers took the place of the National and the Monroe speller the place of the National. Other new books have been introduced into the Village schools but required no change as they were new studies. These have been furnished the pupils at the introductory rates. This year in the same schools we introduced Wentworth's Plane Geometry, Hart's Composition and Rhetoric, and Swinton's New Language Lessons. The introduction of these books has proved of great advantage to the pupils as their progress in these studies has been excellent. We are not satisfied with the work done in reading. Outside the Village the reading has in most of the schools been dull and uninteresting to the pupils, and little progress has been made. The responsibility of this is not wholly with the teachers. A series of readers is in use which is as uninteresting as any published, particularly the smaller ones. A change would have been made several years ago had we thought such a change would have accomplished what was needed. Pupils would be benefited by such a change for the first year and then the new readers would be an old story to them even though better than the old ones. The fault is not altogether in the text-book. As soon as the child reads through the first, second, third or fourth reader, he wants a higher reader and so do most parents and he is soon reading from the fifth reader. The promotion takes place before the child can read either intelligibly to others or himself. It is not strange there are so many poor readers in our schools. Now for the remedy. There is *not enough reading* in the books. Most children read through the books, barely able to pronounce the words and not knowing what many of them mean. Give them another reader of the same grade, magazine or a newspaper, and they can hardly read at all. Let them have enough reading of the first grade until they are able to read that intelligibly, Do the same in each grade and good

readers will be the result. If the town would raise a small sum of money for the purpose of supplying the schools, particularly the primary classes, with supplementary reading more would be accomplished than in any other way. Let the town appropriate \$25 or more for this purpose to be expended by the Committee, and much good will be done. Beyond this we are not prepared to make any recommendation as to change of text-books for the coming year.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

With the organization of the Union School, a new life seemed to dawn upon our beautiful village. A marked change was noticeable among the boys and girls. Something had taken place that affected them and they all knew it. When they first entered the new building three years ago they began a new life. The rudeness and care-for-nothing ways they had acquired in the old school houses were forgotten. They at once became orderly in their deportment. The school house, our friends, who opposed its erection, told us during the struggle to get it, would soon become defaced and abused as the old ones were. To-day so well have our boys and girls cared for the house, that no marks of abuse are found upon its desks or walls. During the year the school has given two entertainments. From the receipts of the first they procured chandeliers and lamps for the halls, and a set of Chambers' Encyclopedia for the use of the school. From the receipts of the second they purpose to purchase a school-bell, and they will be able to get a good one. This is the affection our scholars have for their school. They are not only at work in it, but they show a willingness to work for it that is full of promise for the years to come, when they shall become the men and women of our village. All this is in marked contrast with the action of the district as a body. The school had been satisfactory up to the last annual district meeting. Teachers and scholars were doing noble work. But a cry of *extravagance* was shouted through our streets and the friends (?) of "economy" were rallied. The district refused to raise a dollar to continue what all pronounced satisfactory work in the school. This necessitated the dismissal of the assistant teacher in the High School, and a consequent reduction of the course of study. A large number of the best pupils in the High School were forced to leave it, and the Principal, confined closely as he was to his own room, had no time to look after the interests of the other schools.

A reduction in expenditures has been accomplished. By this reduction 290 men in the district have escaped a poll tax of 16 CENTS EACH, and \$661,230 worth of property has been saved

a tax of about \$255. Or, in other words, each \$1000 worth of taxable property has been saved the sum of 38 cents. This is what the tax-payers have saved. Permit us to ask what your children have lost by this saving?

We do not wish to be understood as arguing against economy. On the other hand, we have practiced it so long ourselves we believe it to be necessary in all public matters. But it is not economy to *save* money when it involves the education of our children. "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches."

No reflection is intended upon the agent, for with the means placed in his hands, he has been able to secure excellent teachers, who have done their work well. Yet the same agent could have given us a longer, if not better school, had more money been placed at his disposal.

SCHOOL STATISTICS, &c.

The following outline of the year's work is presented. The facts and figures are of special interest to the town, and we trust they may receive the attention they deserve:

April 1st, 1879, there were in town 1027 scholars; in 1878, 1009, in 1877, 1035. The total school money for 1879, as appears in another place, is \$4239.90, which was apportioned to the several districts in town.

No. 1. FALLS, (Union with Chesterville). J. W. H. Baker, Agent. 59 scholars in Farmington; money appropriated \$215.35. A summer term was commenced in this district, taught by Love M. Norton, but on account of sickness the school was closed. Shortly afterwards, the district sold their school-house and prepared to erect a new one. Under these circumstances it was deemed inexpedient to open a school before the completion of the new house. The winter term is now in session; taught by L. M. Perkins and Alde L. Tuck.

No. 2. GOWER DIST. Chas. Pierce, Agent. No. of scholars 23. Money appropriated \$102.30. Summer term taught by Edith Adams; length of school 9 weeks; attendance 12, average 79 per cent. Wages \$2.00 per week; board \$2.00. Fall and winter term, taught by Mary C. Spaulding; length of school 12 weeks, attendance 13, average 77 per cent. Wages \$3.00 per week, board not stated.

No. 3. NORTON FLAT. Herman Corbett, Agent. No. of scholars 73; money appropriated \$266.45. Summer and Fall terms taught by Mae C. Eaton; length of school both terms 14 weeks; attendance 30, average 78 per cent. Wages \$5.00 per week; board \$1.40 per week; winter term being taught by Virgil L. Craig.

No. 4. VILLAGE DISTRICT. Dr. P. Dyer, Agent. 356 scholars; \$1299.40. Teachers: Spring term, J. A. Greene, principal,—Mary C. Spaulding, Assistant; Grammar School, Delphina E. Gordon; Intermediate, Emma C. Leland; Primary, Lizzie M. Brown. Fall and winter terms: Phillip L. Paine, principal. Grammar School, Emma S. Wyman; Intermediate, Georgia A. Brown; Primary, Lizzie M. Brown.—In the Statement below, the first figures are the number registered; the second the percentage of attendance:

	Spring Term.		Fall Term.		Winter Term.	
High School:	35	657	27	814	35	914
Grammar:	36	944	41	829	40	900
Intermediate:	41	829	40	902	35	828
Primary:	60	816	57	789	55	781

Length of school 28 weeks. Wages of teachers, including board: Principal, spring term, \$75 per month; fall and winter \$50. Grammar, spring, \$10 per week; fall and winter \$8. Intermediate, spring, \$9; fall and winter \$8. Primary, spring, 9; fall and winter \$8.

No. 5. FAIRBANKS MILLS. Gideon Lambert, Agent; 65 scholars; money appropriated, \$237.25. Summer term taught by Victoria A. St. Clair; length of school 8 weeks; attendance 5; average 80 per cent.; wages, \$4.00 per week; board, \$1.40. Fall term, same teacher; length of school, 10 weeks; attendance, 52; average, 77 per cent.; wages \$4.00; board, \$1.40 per week. Winter term in operation; teacher, J. M. Kempton.

No. 6. GAY DISTRICT. Henry Perkins, Agent. 9 scholars; money appropriated, \$62.10. Summer term taught by Fannie Prescott; length of term, 6 weeks; attendance and average, 2 per cent.; wages, \$2.00; board, \$1.00. Winter term now in operation under the instruction of Georgia Woodbury; No. scholars, 2; discipline perfect.

No. 7. SPRAGUE DIST. Herbert L. Sprague, Agent. 31 scholars; money appropriated, \$144.15. Summer term taught by Lilla M. Scales; length of school 6 weeks; attendance 23, average 87 per cent. Wages, \$3.50; board, \$1.60. Winter term taught by Joel Goldsmith—no report—about 3 weeks. The balance of the term is being taught by Oliver S. Norton.

No. 8. CURRIER DIST. Elisha Bradford, Agent. 11 scholars money appropriated, \$75.25. No summer term; winter term taught by John J. Hunt; length of school 8 weeks; attendance 3, average 92 per cent. Wages, \$22; board, \$1.50.

No. 9. W. FARMINGTON. S. J. Jewett, Agent. 75 scholars; money appropriated, \$273.75. Summer term taught by Love

M. Norton. Register not returned. Winter term taught by Louis M. Perkins, length of term 9 weeks; attendance 48, average 79 per cent. Wages, \$50 per month, including board.

No. 10. SEWALL DIST. William Lunt, Agent. 24 scholars; money appropriated, \$111.60. Summer term taught by Lydia B. Gilman, length of school 6 weeks; attendance 7, average 86 per cent. Wages, \$2.50; board \$1.50. Winter term—same teacher—now in operation.

No. 11. GREENWOOD DIST. Joel Dunlap, Agent. 25 scholars; money appropriated, \$116.25. Summer term taught by Lizzie W. Prescott, length of school 8 weeks; attendance 10, average 90 per cent. Wages, \$2.50 per week; board, 75 cents per week. Winter term now in operation, under the instruction of Mr. S. E. Webber.

No. 12. KNOWLTON'S CORNER. Isaac W. Knowlton, Agent. 33 scholars; money appropriated, \$148.80. Summer term taught by Hattie L. Bean; length of term 8 weeks; attendance 19, average 89 per cent. Wages, 2.00 per week; board, \$1.00. Winter term, teacher, Kendall J. York, now in session.

No. 14. BRIGGS DIST. B. D. Ellsworth, Agent, 22 scholars; money appropriated \$102.30. Summer term taught by Etta K. Currier; length of school 8 weeks; attendance 14, average 94 per cent. Wages \$3.00 per week; board \$2.00. Fall and winter term, same teacher; length of school 8 weeks; attendance 17, average 91 per cent. Wages, \$4.25; board, \$2.00.

No. 15. RUSSELL'S MILLS. N. A. Voter, Agent. 30 scholars; money appropriated \$139.50. Summer term taught by August Wright; length of school 9 weeks; attendance 22, average 77 per cent. Wages, \$3.00; board \$1.25. Winter term, R. A. Kennison, teacher; length of school 13 weeks; attendance 22, average 69 per cent. Wages per month, \$20.00; board not stated.

No. 16. PORTER HILL. Samuel Mann, Agent. 24 scholars; money appropriated 111.60. Summer term taught by Marietta Eaton; length of school, 8 weeks; attendance, 15; average 61 per cent.; wages, \$2.00; board, \$1.00. Fall term taught by Etta J. Mann; length of school, 11½; attendance, 12; average 61 per cent.; wages, \$3.00; board, \$1.20.

No. 17. BAILEY HILL. Silas D. Perham, Agent. 17 scholars; money appropriated, \$100.30. Summer term taught by Gertrude H. Keith; length of school, 10 weeks: attendance 16, average, 82 per cent.; wages, \$2.00 per week; board, \$1.50. Winter term, Fred L. Stevens, teacher; length of school 8 weeks; attendance, 22; average, 73 per cent.; wages, \$17.00 per month; board, \$1.75.

No. 18. **TITCOMB DISTRICT.** J. S. B. Norton, Agent. 19 scholars; money appropriated, \$112.10. Summer term taught by Lizzie W. Cothren; length of school, 2 weeks; teacher closed school on account of sickness; attendance, 7; average, 9 per cent.; wages, \$2.50; board, \$1.50. Remainder of term taught by Mary C. Spaulding; length of school 6 weeks; attendance, 7; average, 78 per cent.; wages, \$2.50; board, \$1.50. Fall and winter term taught by Lizzie W. Titcomb; length of school, 16 weeks; attendance, 10; average, 73 per cent.; wages, \$4.00 per week; board given.

No. 19. **MOSHER HILL.** Reuben Hatch, Agent. 27 scholars; money appropriated, \$125.55. Summer term taught by S. Amanda Niles; length of school, 8 weeks; attendance, 19; average, 89 per cent.; wages, \$3.00; board, \$1.50. Winter term, Howard P. Norton teacher; length of school, 12 weeks; attendance, 21; average, 90 per cent.; wages, \$17.00 per month; board, \$2.00.

No. 20. **HOLLEY DISTRICT.** P. E. Norton, Agent. 25 scholars; money appropriated, \$116.25. Summer term taught by Mary E. Norton; length of term, 10 weeks; attendance, 12; average, 5 per cent.; wages, \$3.00; board 62 cts. Winter term taught by Z. V. Carville; length of term, 12 weeks; attendance, 18; average, 80 per cent.; wages, \$18.00 per month; board, \$1.30.

No. 21. **MARCHANT HOLLEY DISTRICT.** J. B. Holley, Agent. 30 scholars; money appropriated, \$69.00. Summer term taught by Mrs. C. Holley; length of term, 6 weeks; attendance, 10; average, 90 per cent.; wages, \$2.00; board, \$1.40. Fall term taught by Affie M. Butler; length of school, 11 weeks; attendance, 9; average, 90 per cent.; wages, \$2.00; board, \$1.40.

No. 22. **WALTON'S MILLS.** M. C. Hobbs, Agent. 32 scholars; money, \$148.80. Summer term, taught by Ida M. Pomroy; length of school 11 weeks; attendance 21, average 67 per cent. Wages, \$3.00; board, \$1.25. Winter term, first part taught by Emma S. Dixon, last part by Etta K. Currier; now a session.

No. 23. **NO. CHESTERVILLE.** No. scholars 14; money, \$51.10.

No. 25. **FURBUSH DIST.** No. of scholars 8; money, \$29.20.

No. 26. **DENNIS H. SMITH.** No. scholars 2; money, \$7.30.

No. 28. **ALLEN'S MILLS.** No. scholars 2; money, \$7.30.

No. 30. **HILLMAN DISTRICT.** School now being taught by Little M. Stanley; No. scholars 6; money, \$41.40.

No. 31. McINTOSH DIST. No. of scholars 7; money, \$25.55.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. H. KNOWLTON,	} Superintending	
JOHN R. VOTER,		School
PETER E. NORTON.		Committee

Farmington, Feb. 23, 1880.